

Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association



Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

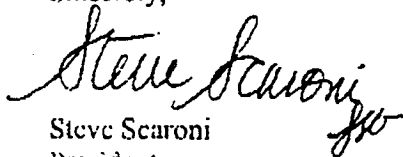
The Cal-Fed proposal to take nearly 250,000 acres of production is unacceptable to the members of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association. Agriculture is an inreplaceable economic and environmental resource to California.

Agriculture cannot be the solution to the state's burgeoning population. In fact, agriculture production is not only vital to the state economy providing one in every 10 jobs, but in feeding the rapidly growing population.

We know Cal Fed's concern is environmentally based, but the proposed solution is shortsighted. Farming provides immense habitat in addition to its invaluable economic contributions. To assist growers in this process, Cal-Fed must provide an answer for a reliable water supply. That includes new water storage with adequate yield, to prevent the taking of additional water from farms in drought years.

The brief comment period and the lack of public hearings are also of concern to our members. Cal-Fed is setting a dangerous precedence for all of California agriculture, not just the Central Valley's.

Sincerely,


Steve Scaroni
President

CC: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Duncan Hunter
State Senator Dave Kelley
Assemblyman Jim Battin

Supervisor Wally Leimgruber
Supervisor Bill Cole
Supervisor Tony Tirado
Supervisor Tom Veysey
Supervisor Dean Shores
CFBF Rep. Judi Fitzgerald

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